

A
SUPPLEMENT

TO

Physical Enquiries,

LATELY PUBLISHED:

In a LETTER to the
RIGHT HONOURABLE
WILLIAM PULTENET, Esq;

*Judge we by Nature : Habits can efface,
Int'rest o'ercome, or Policy take Place.*

POPE.

By JOHN TENNENT, M. D.



L O N D O N :

Printed by T. GARDNER, near Temple Bar, and
sold by Andrew Millar, Bookseller, opposite St.
Clement's Church in the Strand, and John Millan,
near Wills's Coffee House, Charing Cross.

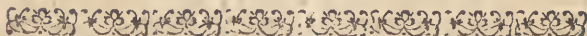
M D C C X L I I .

5



A

SUPPLEMENT, &c.



TO THE

RIGHT HONOURABLE

WILLIAM PULTENEY, Esq;

SIR,

WHEN I presumed to dedicate to you my *Physical Enquiries*, my sole View was to obtain your Authority and Countenance to recommend *them* to the World, according as you found *them* connected with the *Public Good* and the Honour of *Literature*; and I endeavoured to put my Arguments in such a Light, as to be understood by every one of good Sense, tho' not conversant with *Physical Subjects*, and I am well persuaded that no unprejudiced Person will dispute their Validity.

I heartily wish that there never had been such a melancholy Occasion, so to treat the Opinion and Advice of the *College of Physicians*; for, tho' my Conduct on that account may meet with Approbation from Men of

B

Worth

Worth, yet the Reflections that naturally arise in my Mind on the loss of so many Lives which might have been saved, damp in a great measure that Pleasure consequent to obtaining so valuable a Point; and besides, it is my natural Aversion to have Differences subsisting with any Man.

But, Sir, where a Cause is of a public nature, I humbly conceive that all Thoughts of a good Understanding are to be shaken off with those who are Enemies to it, whether from Self-Interest, Envy, Prejudice of Education, or other Reasons; and on the other hand, a Friendship ought to commence so soon as these Enemies *perfectly* change their Measures.

Hence I was led to declare openly against those of my own Profession, and rather than quit the pursuit of my Design, which I flatter myself will be esteem'd by after Ages and greatly serve the World, tho' it may be stifled for a time, I preferred suffering the effects of the Resentment of some of the principal Physicians in *London*; for the Cause I have embark'd in is supported with the solid Foundation of *Truth*, to serve Mankind in a Point of near concern, which may be done to a great degree if they will not suffer themselves to be blindly led into Enmity against a *well-meaning Friend* by their real Enemies,

Enemies, under the Masque of Friendship to disguise their Self-interested Purposes.

As there are daily instances of diversity of Constructions put on a Conduct which is out of the common Road, proceeding from a Spirit of Envy and Detraction that is epidemic in the World, and which infringes upon the Principles of Honour and Equity with many; and as the fairest Cause is very often cruelly misrepresented, and things quite foreign are blended with it, whether true or false, to elude its real worth and due claim; I think it absolutely necessary to disclose to you the primary Sources of the Hardships I am drawn into, by a true State of my Public Service done to his Majesty's Plantations in *America*, and how the learned Physicians in *London* have behaved therein.

The *British Colonies in America* are Yearly attacked with an *Epidemic Disease*, which before the Discovery and Publication, as farther appears, was so mortal, that in a County consisting of eight or nine hundred People, one fourth part were cut off in the course of the Season when it invades, which is from *October*. to *April*, and some Years to *May*; every Year it was not quite so mortal, yet generally speaking this was the havock it made.

This Disease appears under different Symptoms according to the State of the human

Body and Climate, antecedent to and present at its Invasion, which occasioned many Notions concerning its Nature and Cause, among the numerous Practitioners of Physic in *Virginia*; and according to their various Opinions, so were their Methods of Cure, but the Success with all much alike, being the Loss of about two Thirds of their Patients.

The Inhabitants improperly stile this Disease a *Pleurisy*; for tho' it is analagous to a *Pleurisy*, it cannot strictly fall under that Denomination, being as much a *Peripneumony*. By all the Accounts I have been able to collect, it appears to be nearly related to that Disease in *Turkey* called the *Plague*; and when the Latitudes of *Turkey*, and other Circumstances on which Diseases in all Probability depend, are compared with those of *America*, there appears a great Equality, and consequently there is Reason to think that the annual Epidemic Disease of *America*, and the *Plague* in *Turkey*, are analogous.

The Observations I had made upon the Dispensations of Providence, induced me to believe that all Countries were provided with Remedies for their Diseases, and to bend my Searches after a Cure for this mortal Disease, as well as others of *America*; and I found that there grew a Plant plentifully throughout the Continent, call'd *Rattle-Snake Root*, which

which if taken immediately after the *Rattle-Snake's Bite*, prevents Death, which follows often in fifteen Minutes, sometimes much sooner, and in some Cases the Patient may live two or three Days : The Reasons of these Differences in the Time of Death are various, such as the Season of the Year, Constitution of the Patient, and the Part bit.

They that travel, or hunt, in the Woods, carry this Root powdered in their Shot-Bags, to chew and swallow so soon as they are bit by that Snake, the Blood's Stagnation being prevented by its peculiar Activity.

A Nation of Northern *Indians*, called the *Senekkas*, were the Discoverers of the Efficacy of the Root of this Plant, who observing that the Root and Flowers resembled the Rattles of the Snake, concluded that Providence had impressed that Characteristic to point out its Use.

And though, this is the Philosophy of Antiquity, and inconsistent with the modern System, yet in this Case a great Purpose was answered by it; though it must be confessed that it is not a sure way of deducing the Efficacy of Vegetables*.

This Root from that Nation of *Indians*, is stiled *Senekka Rattle-Snake Root*, as the cer-

B 3

tain

* In this however is seen, with glaring Evidence, that there is an innate Idea in every rational Mind of the Existence and Goodness of the supreme Being of the Universe,

tain Root to prevent Death following the Bite of that most venomous Viper, those other Plants being much inferior in Efficacy, and often fail in saving Life in that Case.

These *Indians* returning from a War with a Southern Nation of *Indians* called the *Catawbas*, in the Year 1712, communicated the Efficacy of this Root to one *William Caniko*, a Planter in the Frontiers of *Virginia*, which he imparted to the Country about him, and so was soon known throughout *America*. And tho' the Efficacy of the Root of this Plant was familiarly known for many Years, in the Case of the *Rattle Snake's Bite*, yet no Inference was drawn from that remarkable Phenomenon: My Reasoning thereupon was as follows:

It is obvious in all Nature's Operations that a multiplicity of Effects are produced from Causes of a small Number and simple Nature; whence appears the Power, Wisdom, and Goodness of God, her great Author: Hence I inferred that the Root of a Plant of such powerful Efficacy, as to prevent Death succeeding the Blood's Stagnation after a *Rattle Snake's Bite*, must answer other great Purposes: *Qualis est Causa, talis est Effectus*. All the difficulty which arose was, What other Purposes

poses would this Root answer ? The Solution was made by the reasoning as follows :

It is a Maxim in Phyfic, *that Nature acts by the most simple means* : It is well known that a Stagnation of the Blood is the ultimate effect of those Diseases which terminate in Death ; and it is also well known, that many Diseases proceed from a Tendency to a Stagnation, or a Viscidity in the Blood : For, if Diseases did not proceed from such a state of the Blood, they could not terminate therein : *Qualis est Effectus, talis est Causa.*

Now from Nature's Simplicity in Operation, *Stagnations, or Viscidities of the Blood*, must be analogous ; consequently that Stagnation, or Viscidity of the Blood, which is the Cause of several Diseases, may have some Analogy to that Stagnation produced from the *Rattle Snake's Venom*, which is the Cause of Death : And the nearer the Analogy is, the better will the *Rattle-Snake Root* answer the Cure of the Disease.

And tho' a Stagnation, or Viscidity of the Blood, may be produced from different Causes, such as the *Rattle Snake's Venom*, an Obstruction of Perspiration, a Laxity, or great Tensity of the Solids ; yet there may be a very near relation between the States of Stagnation and Viscidity of the Blood, tho' produced from

Causes so different; for *different Causes will produce like Effects*, under several Circumstances of Nature; add to this, *Nature's Simplicity in Operation*.

These Arguments are sufficient to shew that this Root must be very powerful, in several Modes of Viscidity and Coagulation in the Blood: And the Arguments which enabled me to deduce its Efficacy in particular Diseases, such as *Pleuritic* and *Peripneumonic Fevers*, &c. appear at large in Sect III. of my *Dissertations* soon to be published.

After many Trials of the Efficacy of this Root, from *December 10, 1734*, when I made the first Trial*, I saw the great Service which would arise to Mankind in general, particularly those of *America*, to publish speedily and in the most open manner so useful a Discovery; therefore in *August 1736*, I had a brief *Essay on the Pleurisy* printed, setting forth plain and easy Directions how to administer it in that Epidemic Disease; and afterwards I published Directions in the *Gazettee*, still more plain, for I found that my *Essay* was not in Terms explicit enough to all the Public; by which means my Discovery and Directions were understood clearly, and communicated throughout *America*.

And

* See Sect VIII. of my *Physical Dissertations*. Case 1.

And that as little Time as possible should be lost, in reaping so great a Benefit, I bought as much of the Root as cost me upwards of seventy Pounds, distributed a great part of it out of my own Hands *gratis*; for had I sold it, tho' for no greater Price than I gave, such is the Bent of some Men's Thoughts, as to give an ill-natured Construction to the best designed Actions.

Thus to conduct myself, I apprehended, the Ties of *Humanity* and *Christianity* required; for had I kept such a valuable Discovery secret, till I had secured my private Interest, by making Agreements with the Assemblies of the several *American* Colonies, which would have required some Years, Thousands of Lives, which now are yearly saved, would have been lost: Indeed some Part of *Virginia* could have had this Medicine from me, but all that Colony could not, far less the neighbouring Colonies, whose Extent from North to South is above a Thousand Miles. Therefore, what Man who had any Pretensions to Humanity, or Sympathy with the Miseries of his Fellow-Creatures, could have kept such a general Benefit secret, tho' by doing so he would have made sure of a Sum of Money?

But

But by the Measures I observed, I had the Pleasure to see the most mortal and epidemic Disease of *America* reduced to such Certainty of Cure, that not above three or four Patients in one hundred died, and this public Service done with the Root of a Plant, which could be had either for gathering, or one Shilling *per* Pound.

This I judged proper to communicate to the Physicians of the first Rank in *London*, and accordingly sent from *Virginia* thirty-six Copies of my *Essay on the Pleurisy*, for their Perusal, and Judgment on the Subject, to whom they were delivered.

In the Year 1737, my Health being much impaired by means of the *American* Climate and great Fatigues, I resolved to go to my native Country, in order to recover my Health and Constitution, hurt by ten Years Residence abroad ; accordingly I furnished myself with several Recommendations and Credentials, embarked for *London*, June 26, and arrived the Beginning of *August*.

Amongst my Credentials, I had Letters to the Right Hon. the Lord Ilay, Sir Hans Sloan, Bart. M. D. Richard Mead, M. D. and one from the Hon. William Gooch, Esq; Governor of *Virginia*, to Dr. Mead, and one to each of these three Persons from the Hon. William Byrd,

Byrd, Esq; one of his Majesty's Council; that to the Lord Ilay, as concerned in Affairs of the Government, that he might use his Interest to have Justice done me; and those to these two Physicians, as at the Head of the Republick of Learning in Physic, that they might be my Abettors with Persons of Influence in the Government, for acting agreeable to the Honour of my Profession, and doing such a general Good.

I cannot give a Copy of these Letters, but that a Judgment may be formed of their Import, shall give a Copy of a *General Testimonial* given by the *Hon. Alexander Spotswood, Esq;* who was Governor of *Virginia* twelve Years; which is as follows:

THE Bearer, Doctor John Tennent, having, during the Course of his Practice of Physic in Virginia, made a Discovery of a most valuable Benefit to this Country; and he having generously communicated the same to the Public, by his late printed Essay on the Pleurisy; I judge it incumbent upon all Men that know the Success which his Medicine has had in this Part of the World, to give their Testimony thereof, in order to satisfy the College of Physicians, or any other Persons, concerning the experienced Efficacy of the Rattle-Snake Root,

Root, administred in a Pleurisy, according to the said Dr. Tennent's Prescription. Wherefore now upon his intended Voyage to Great-Britain, I give these to certify, that I have lately had the Experience in my Family of the said Rattle-Snake Root curing some of my Negroes when affected with dangerous Pleurisies or violent Colds; and that I have heard of several Instances among my Neighbours and Tenants, when such Patients, after taking the Rattle-Snake Root, have been surprizingly relieved and recovered.

Sic subscribitur.

A. SPOTSWOOD.

Given under my Hand at Germanna,
in Virginia, June 4, 1737.

The Letters before-mentioned I delivered in a few Days after my Arrival, and then waited upon several Physicians of the first Rank, represented to them the experienced Efficacy of this Root in *America*, and endeavoured to convince them that it must answer great Purposes in the Cure of Diseases in *Great Britain*, which no Medicine in the *Materia Medica* could effect.

These Measures were taken to introduce an efficacious Medicine in the learned and polite
World,

World, that the Physicians might improve it by their superior Genius, and recommend it by their Authority; that I might raise my Reputation, and consequently advance my Interest, consistent with the public Good, which should always share with private Interest; and that in Case my Circumstances ever required Assistance by means of Incidents, to which human Affairs are subject, I would have a claim upon the Equity of the *British Legislature*, as well as the *Assembly of Virginia*, which would be corroborated by the Evidence of the Physicians in *London*.

Thus was my Scheme formed for the public Good, and Honour of my Profession, exclusive of any collateral Views but what must result from Equity in the most strict Sense: I never looked for a Reward, and was determined not to accept of any, unless my Circumstances became narrow, which could not reasonably be supposed ever to happen, because of the good Consequences that seemed natural to my Measures. And from the Encouragement at first given me, I had no reason to suspect that I had embarked in a *Chimerical Scheme*: The Lord *Ilay* told me that I ought to be rewarded for such a public Service; and Dr. *Mead* wrote an Answer to the Governor of *Virginia*, a Copy of which follows:

Sir,

S I R,

I HAVE the Honour of yours, by the Hands of Mr. Tennent: It gives me very great Pleasure to find that he has done so much Service to Mankind, particularly those of your Country, by discovering the medicinal Virtues of the Rattle-Snake Root, which, as he informs, has not only been experienced effectual after the Bite of that terrible Creature, but also is a successful Medicine in that malignant Pleurisy which is very fatal, and in a manner epidemic in Virginia, and indeed in many other Parts of the West-Indies; I have frequently conversed with this Gentleman, and do really think him to be an ingenious and industrious Man, not only skillful in Surgery, but well improved in the Knowledge of Physic; I shall be very glad to do him what Service is in my Power, and it is really my Opinion that as no Discovery made for the Benefit of the Public ought to go without its Reward, so it would be very right immediately to give the Author of this such an handsome Encouragement, as might excite others to apply themselves in search after the medicinal Virtues of those Plants,
which

*which the poor Natives, by long Practice,
have found to be serviceable in the Cure of many
Diseases.*

I am, S I R,

with very great Respect,

Your most obedient

and most humble Servant,

Sic subscribitur.

R. MEAD.

By the following Testimonial (of which I have the Original in Dr. *Mead's* Hand-writing) it appears that I had also the Honour to be well thought of by two other Physicians at the Head of Physical Learning.

“ We whose Names are underwritten do
“ certify, that having conversed with Mr. *John*
“ *Tennent*, and having enquired into his Cha-
“ racter, of which he has good Testimonials
“ from Gentlemen in *Virginia*, where he
“ has lived and practised Physic for more
“ than ten Years; we do think him well
“ qualified for the Degree of a Doctor in
“ Physic, and do therefore recommend
“ him

“ him to the Professors of the University of
 “ *Edinburgh*, that he may be admitted to
 “ that Degree.

THO. PELLET, M. D.

R. MEAD, M. D.

JA. MONRO, M. D.

Dr. *Monro's* Indisposition that was removed by the *Senekka Rattle-Snake Root*, seemed to be a favourable Incident to forward its Introduction in common Practice: This Gentleman had laboured under a chro-
 nical Illness for many Months, tried divers
 Advices and Methods of Cure to no purpose,
 and was recovered in less than one Month by
 my Prescription; which was, first the *Decoc-*
tion, and next the *Powder* of this *Root* at
 stated times. The following is a Copy of
 his Letter to me when my Patient, the Ori-
 ginal of which I have carefully laid up.

S I R,

I AM greatly obliged to you, and should
 think myself much more so, could I have the
 Pleasure of asking you a few Questions; as
 what Regimen or Diet the Person must keep
 that takes this Medicine, whether he may go
 abroad

abroad or not, &c. Please to let me know by a Line where I may wait on you.

I am, SIR,

Your very humble Servant,

JA. MONRO.

From these Things regarding this *Medicine*, it would seem that the People of *America* and the Learned Physicians in *London*, were bound by the Ties of Honour, Gratitude, and Equity, to the Discoverer; and from the several extraordinary Instances of its superior Efficacy to any other Medicine, which can be produced in *London* as well as *America*, every honest Man surely would expect the Physicians to practice with it. But it appears in Sect V. and VI. of my *Physical Dissertations*, that *Ingratitude*, *Envy*, *Ignorance*, and *Self-Interest*, have cancell'd these three important Duties.

The Particulars relating to my ill Usage appear in *these two Sections*, and are of too great a length to be stated here; so that I shall only observe in Answer to many People who have laid to my own Fault the bad Effects of my Publication, as proceeding from my not making a Secret of my Discovery, that

its whole Merit consists in freely publishing it. But it is a just tho' melancholy Remark, that a fair and open Conduct can never succeed with the bulk of Mankind ; that it is the *Artful Man*, he who only regards his own Interest, Health, and Ease, and forms his Schemes towards his Fellow Creatures under fallacious Pretences of serving them, has the best Success in getting that which is due to the Person who deals fairly with them.

This Remark will be amply justified, on a Retrospect to many Things that have greatly pleased and raised the Imagination of both Sexes: How many Instances can there be produced of *Quacks*, *Impostures*, and *High German Doctors*, killing and imposing on the Public with their *Arcana*, and inconsistent Harangues?

Since Experience cannot warn against *such Evils*, the World seems to be under an *Ignis Fatuus* ; therefore the Terms *Error* and *Misapprehension*, cannot be applied in that Case : But I shall wave expatiating on such a dismal appearance of Things, and proceed to observe upon the Inconsistency of the Physicians, with respect to those Things that I am persuaded, Sir, you will think to be their strict Duty.

Notwith-

Notwithstanding the Disappointment and ill Usage I met with, I had great Hopes to recover some broken Affairs of mine on occasion of the Government sending Troops to the *West-Indies*, under the Command of the *Right Hon. the Lord Cathcart*, to carry on the Operations of War against *Spain*; for, I humbly presume, it will be judged, that a Physician who had Experience of the Diseases of the *American Climate*, must have been of great Use to the Sailors and Troops: Therefore, as I had practised several Years there, and had done a public Service, for which, instead of having received the due Effects, I had been vilely abused, the public Good and Equity, two strong Ties, called upon the Physicians to recommend me.

Many Instances prove that Armies suffer as much, or more, from going out of their natural temperate into hot sultry Climates, than from a Rencounter and Defeat with an Enemy: The Expedition to the *West-Indies* under *Admiral Hosier*, it would seem, was a sufficient Warning to regard, in a particular manner, Measures to prevent or cure the mortal and epidemic Disease of that Climate: And indeed it appears, that *the Right Honourable the Lords of the Admiralty* did not overlook that Affair, for they wrote to

the College of Physicians upon it, as appears in Sect I. of my *Physical Enquiries*.

Whatever Advice may be supposed *that* learned Body were capable of giving, the greatest good that could be done must have been by a Physician to attend the Expedition, who was well acquainted with the *American* Diseases; for, let Men be ever so learned or successful in their Practice in *Great Britain*, they'll find the Case quite different in the *West-Indies* for some time; it is Experience that is the only Guide in Physic, without which, Learning is but of very little Use.

But however reasonable these Things may appear, a Physician was nominated to the Expedition, who neither had long Practice nor great Success in *Britain*, and never had been in the *American* Climate; he had indeed the Character of being a learned Man; but as it must be obvious to every one of good Sense, that knowing Languages cannot make a Physician, as appears in Sect I. of my *Physical Dissertations*, he was in no wise fit for such a Post: And if we are to judge from Facts, what happened in the *West Indies* puts it beyond all Dispute, that he had no Right to that Station.

I hope these Remarks will not be ascribed to Envy, or Ill-nature, because I expected that Post; I think that the Subject well deserves Consideration, from every Man endued with Compassion: Let us put ourselves in the Case of those who went to the *West-Indies*, and then we will think it a cruel Hardship, that our Lives should be sacrificed, through the Want of that which could have been easily got *. After my Disappointment, the following Publications were made.

From the *Daily Advertiser*, May 23, 1740.

To many of the Physicians in London.

‘ **D**R. *John Tennent*, from *Virginia*, gives
‘ notice, that no longer can he be silent
‘ upon their Conduct towards his Discovery
‘ and Publishing it, since by Experience an
‘ extraordinary Benefit is proved to Mankind
‘ thereby, and a farther Advantage is pro-
‘ mised upon reasoning from such Experience.
‘ That he has strictly complied with their
‘ declared Sentiments against *Quacks* in every
C 3 ‘ Piece

* See Sect. I. of my *Physical Enquiries*, for my Method of Cure proposed in the mortal epidemic Fever of the *West-Indies*. which has deprived many of Friends and the nearest Relations, and our Country of Honour and Interest.

‘ Piece of his Conduct, the Practice of such
 ‘ being counter to the Honour and Improve-
 ‘ ment of the Art of Physic, and generally
 ‘ speaking, very inconsistent with Humanity.

‘ That he concluded they would become
 ‘ his strenuous Abettors and Mediators with
 ‘ the *British Legislature*, for such his Disco-
 ‘ very and Conduct, having done a great
 ‘ Service to the *American Plantations*, which
 ‘ is authentically documented to the *Board of*
 ‘ *Trade and Plantations from Virginia*; but
 ‘ on the contrary finds, in the whole Course
 ‘ of his Affair since 1736, when he made
 ‘ his first Publication, that he was under a
 ‘ very great Mistake in concluding, that evi-
 ‘ dent Truths were the Basis of the Senti-
 ‘ ments of every one of the Learned in Phy-
 ‘ sic; and from what hath passed among
 ‘ them, and been neglected touching this
 ‘ Matter, he is bold to say, that they have re-
 ‘ duced themselves to a severe *Dilemma*, viz.
 ‘ that either Self-Interest, Envy, or Ignorance,
 ‘ was the Source.

‘ And therefore, as he is now about pub-
 ‘ lishing his Case, in order that the impartial
 ‘ and discerning World may see his Hardship,
 ‘ he gives this notice as a fair Adversary, that
 ‘ the Physicians may prepare to defend them-
 ‘ selves

‘ selves against a Charge, which, if proved
‘ just, must set their Names in no reputable
‘ Light.

JOHN TENNENT.

From the *Daily Advertiser*, July 10, 1741.

To the Learned College of Physicians in
London.

The MEMORIAL of Dr. JOHN TENNENT.

‘ **T**HOSE concerned in the Affairs of
‘ Government confiding in you for
‘ Advice, in the Health and Life of his Ma-
‘ jesty’s Forces in the *West-Indies*; and as I
‘ have good Evidence firmly to believe, that
‘ hundreds of brave Men there would have
‘ been saved, had the experienced Efficacy of
‘ the *Senekka Rattle-Snake Root*, in viscid and
‘ coagulated States of the Blood, been regarded;
‘ I have thought this open Method the most
‘ proper of redoubling my Efforts to serve the
‘ Public, because of what has been already
‘ transacted in this Affair; which Method I
‘ hope will be acceptable, as I shall only ob-
‘ serve what is Truth, and that Decorum
‘ which is due to so learned a Body of Men.
‘ Wherefore I now offer to your Consideration

' this Root, as much more powerful in curing
 ' Distempers owing to, or attended with a
 ' Viscidity and Coagulation of the Blood,
 ' than any other Medicine ; ample Proofs of
 ' which I am ready to adduce when required.
 ' And I offer my Service in the Post of Phy-
 ' sician to his Majesty's Forces in the *West-Indies*,
 ' grounded upon the Concessions of some
 ' of the Members of your learned College
 ' touching my Fitness for it, who are at the
 ' Head of Physical Learning ; this Offer is
 ' also grounded upon my long Experience of
 ' the *American Diseases* : But if it can be
 ' proved that another Person has a better
 ' Right to it, founded on the Public Good, I
 ' shall chearfully wave this Application, for
 ' every private Interest should give way to a
 ' general Good.

' Experience being the only sure Founda-
 ' tion in the Practice of Physic, there is some
 ' Reason to believe, that if a Physician, ac-
 ' quainted with the *American Diseases*, had
 ' been sent with the Expedition under Lord
 ' *Cathcart*, that this General, experienced in
 ' War, several brave Officers, and many others,
 ' might have been saved ; in which Case,
 ' what might have been done at *Carthagera* ?
 ' Let a Man's warlike Genius be ever so great,
 ' Experience greatly improves it : In the Art
 ' of

‘ of Physic the Case is the same. Therefore,
‘ granting this General’s Physician, who is
‘ also dead, to have had the greatest Genius
‘ and Learning, he was unfit for that Post,
‘ being deficient in the main Point, *Experi-*
‘ *ence in the American Distempers*: Whence
‘ also was to be questioned his Life, not being
‘ innured to that Climate, admitting his spe-
‘ culative Works to have been a sufficient
‘ Proof of his Success where he never practi-
‘ sed. Hence it appears, that a proper Phy-
‘ sician to the late Expedition was a conse-
‘ quential Point, a Point that should not have
‘ been determined through Favour; it was
‘ an Expedition nearly touching the Honour
‘ and Interest of *Great-Britain*.

‘ If my public Service done to the *Ameri-*
‘ *can* Plantations being treated inconsistent
‘ with Humanity, Gratitude, and Equity,
‘ inconsistent with your Arguments and De-
‘ clarations against Quacks and secret Medi-
‘ cines, has drawn from me warm Expres-
‘ sions which gave Offence, I ask, who under
‘ my Treatment for my public Service could
‘ have suppressed their Sentiments, and would
‘ not have published as much to the World
‘ as I have done? Was I to appeal to the
‘ Tribunal of the whole impartial World,
‘ after a fair State of my public Service, and
‘ the

‘ the Consequences thereof to me, I am sure
 ‘ that not one but would say, I was egregiously
 ‘ abused, and that such Usage was a Tarnish
 ‘ upon the Principles of Christianity, and
 ‘ every other laudable Principle : But I have
 ‘ yet some Hopes, that a Body of so learned
 ‘ Men as the *Colledge of Physicians in London*,
 ‘ who no doubt would also be thought ho-
 ‘ nourable and consciencous, will not let my
 ‘ Resentment of ill Usage be the Hinderance
 ‘ of a general Good, which may be obtained
 ‘ by giving due Attention to the experienced
 ‘ Efficacy of the *Senekka Rattle-Snake Root*.

I am,

With all Deference due,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

JOHN TENNENT.

Such a Rancour, Sir, was generated against
 me for the first of these Publications, that
 the different Address in the second could not
 alleviate it ; and so little Regard was paid to
 the Death of Lord *Cathcart*, and the great
 Mortality before *Cartagena*, that a second
 Physician

Physician was sent to the Forces in the *West-Indies*, in no respect better qualified than the first.

Such an extraordinary Omission of a Point of Duty, wherein Compassion and Humanity were concerned, renders it more than probable that *Self-Interest* is the principal Cause of Men's exerting themselves: Let it be well observed, that I mean not all Men, but the general Part: Numerous Observations have drawn me into this Way of thinking. What I have set forth in my *Physical Enquiries*, as well as eminently in my *Dissertations* in the Press, being joined with the following Observations, I am apt to believe, will convince every discerning Man, that I am in no Error in thinking so of the Physicians.

By the loud Exclamations and virulent Censures of the Physicians against Mr. *Ward*; by the great Pains taken by Mr. *Clutton*, to collect sixty eight Cases with so many Circumstances, and to make ten Experiments, to discover the component Principles of the *Pill*, and to Print and Publish them in his Book mentioned in Sect II. of my *Physical Enquiries*; it would seem that some considerable Point was in view: The Question then naturally arises, What was the Point in view? The Answer appears in the Preface of the

the said Book, *viz. The Good of Mankind.*

But surely that Allegation will bear no Credit with Men of good Sense, after the wilful Omission of the Regard due to the Measures I observed to the Physicians in general, in my Discovery, and after the Enmity shewn by several of them to me *.

No Mathematical Demonstration is clearer than *that the Physicians ought to have been my Friends, in proportion to their Enmity to Mr. Ward,* from the same Reasons and Principles. For I flatter myself that every thinking Person will say, I have in every respect conformed to *the Honour of my Profession,* and *Humanity,* in discovering and freely publishing a Medicine, which is proved to do more Service in *America* than all the *Chymical* and *Galenical* Preparations of the Shops.

And is it not a safe as well as efficacious Medicine? Is there any Medicine in or out of the *Materia Medica,* of such extensive use? Is there any Medicine, or any Composition that can produce the same Effects, not only in the most acute and mortal Diseases, but also in chronic Cases?

If these Questions are answer'd in the Affirmative, I join Issue, and am ready for Trial in a fair and proper manner. I

* See Sect III. and IV. of my *Physical Dissertations.*

I fear that this melancholy Remark can be too well warranted, *that the Art of Physic is a Trade of Interest*, and will reconcile the same Behaviour of the *Physicians*, to two Conducts of a quite different Nature.

It was the Apprehension of an universal Medicine that produced the Opposition to *Mr. Ward's Pill and Drop*, which was thought would affect private Interest; not *the Good of Mankind*. But had it been considered that the *Omnipotent Being* has so ordered Things in Nature, that there can be no Universal Medicine, nor no Medicine but must do some Harm, if not properly adapted to the Disease, the Fears of Self-Interest would have been dissipated.

For to make a proper Application of a Medicine, entirely depends on a Physician's Judgment who knows Nature; yet there is not such an essential Difference between Diseases, but that a few safe and efficacious Medicines will answer the Cure much better than the vast Numbers in practice, which are quite inconsistent with Nature's Simplicity in Operation *.

Every Man learned in Physic can expatiate amply upon the Absurdities arising from the

* See Sect IX. of my *Physical Dissertations*, wherein I have endeavoured to set Nature's Simplicity in a clear Light.

the Arguments in favour of an Universal Medicine, and can demonstrate the Necessity of a Variation in Practice as the Disease translates ; but the Mistake consists in this :

Tho' a Disease exhibits different Symptoms at different times in the same Persons, or different Symptoms in different Constitutions, yet the primary Cause may still be the same ; for the different *Phænomena*, whether in the same Person, or different Persons, often depend on adjunct Causes owing to many Incidents in Life, which often come within the reach of an accurate Observer of Nature ; and when they do not come within his reach, 'tis not to be concluded that the Change of Symptoms is always a Translation of the Disease.

However, it is readily believed, that Diseases require different Medicines as the Symptoms change, because the Physician and Apothecary have both an *Interest* in it ; the first in often prescribing, and the second in sending to the unhappy Patient a Multiplicity of *Juleps*, *Bolus's*, *Cordials*, *Draughts*, &c. &c. &c.

Indeed I have observed the Prescriptions of several Physicians throughout all the Stages of *Mortal Fevers*, to order things of no greater Efficacy than a mixture of *Water*, *Spirit*, and

and Sugar; such as *Juleps of Mint, Baum and strong Cinnamon Water*, with a little Syrup; or *Emulsions, Apozems, Powder of Crabs Eyes, Crabs Claws, Lapis Contrayerva*, and the like; yet the Patient was visited at least once every Day, and a Prescription wrote every time, the Sum of which was, *Repetatur ejusdem*; and thus, the poor Patient had *fair Play*, having neither received Hurt nor Good from the *learned Physician*: But then, the Relations or Friends had this to alleviate their Grief for the Death of their Friend, that it was by the Advice of a *regular Physician*.

The Fear of the extensive use of *Mr. Ward's Pill and Drop*, was more in the bottom of the Opposition made, than the Humanity pretended, because of the Conduct of the Physicians and Apothecaries in my Affair, which is of a quite different Nature from all Quackery. His *Pill and Drop*, whatever Harm it appears they have done, cannot be called *Poison*; they have mortal Effects only relatively, not absolutely: The same thing may be said of several Medicines in the *Materia Medica*.

Liquid Laudanum, if given in a certain Stage of a *Pleuritic Fever*, will kill in eight Hours, yet in some Cases, it answers good Purposes,

Purposes, tho' given in much larger Quantities*.

So it is the same with all other efficacious Medicines ; they either produce salutary or deadly Effects as they are properly or improperly applied ; and there are several powerful Medicines which can answer more Purposes than others, *et vice versa* : Success, in the Practice of Physic, depends entirely on a Physician's Degree of Knowledge in the Laws of Nature.

Therefore, as Mr. *Ward* acknowledged, when he came from *Paris* to *London*, that he was not conversant with the material Points which constitute a true Physician, the Physicians and Apothecaries had no reason to apprehend that his *Pill and Drop* would prove so universal a Medicine as to hurt their Interest.

But

* I gave *Laudanum* lately to a Patient, to the quantity of half an Ounce in four Hours, in an *Inversion of the peristaltic Motion of the Guts*, and his Life was thereby saved, at least I believe so ; there the Case admitted of its Effects.

This Patient was Mr. *Philip Phillis*, Merchant, in *Arundel Street* in the *Strand*, who lay ill at *Bryan's Coffee House* in *Charles Street, Covent-Garden*, being a Wine Merchant, and having Business there : His Case required my Attendance all Night, under such particular Administration.

But that *Thing* called *Self*, often raiseth Fears and Jealousies without any Reason, and is productive of Disasters that are a Shame and Iniquity to *Christians*.

It appears to me from several Cases in *Mr. Clutton's* Book, as well as from others that have accidentally fallen under my Cognizance, that the *Pill and Drop*, from their violent Effects in some Cases, may answer great Purposes in others; but to say that they can safely be used in the Hands of every Person, is quite absurd; and it was equally absurd to affirm that they could cure all Diseases: And it seems that *Mr. Ward* himself is now satisfied that they fail in many Cases, whatever he believed when he came from *Paris* to *London*; for it is well known, that since then he has got *several other Medicines and Secrets*, as I observed in Sect II. of my *Physical Enquiries*.

Upon the whole it appears, that Mankind are very ill served in the Art of Physic; on the one Side, the *Physicians* argue for the Necessity of a Variation in the Method of Cure as the Symptoms change, beyond what consists with Nature; and on the other Side, *Quacks* plead in favour of an universal Medicine, both which Arguments are equally absurd, and tend to the same Point *viz. Self-Interest*.

To conclude : If a Comparifon is made between the general Good arifing from the Publication of my Difcovery, and the Public Service done by the Publication of *Mrs. Stephens's Medicines*, as a *Diffolvent for the Stone*, for which the *British Parliament* thought it equitable to give *Five Thousand Pounds* ; I humbly think it will be judged that I deferve a much greater Sum, which I wave naming, that no one fhould conclude I want at leaft as much as was given for a Service of far lefs Confequence to the World. Or, if any one will reflect on the Agreements I might have infifted upon with the Affembly of the *American Colonies*, before my Publication, 'tis not to be questioned that I could have got four Times as much as was given for *Mrs. Stephens's Medicines*.

But as I obferved, page 13, I never looked for a Reward unlefs unfortunate Events, to which every Man is liable , fhould affect my Circumftances ; and if ever that fhould be the Cafe, I concluded myfelf intitled to a Reward, *from the Laws of Gratitude and Equity*: And tho' no worfe Events have occurred to me, than what a tenth Part of the Sum I could have got by infifting on a Bargain before hand would have removed, yet that could not be obtained, tho' Thoufands of Lives were

were saved by my speedy Publication ; which, from what I have of late Years observed, is thus to be accounted for.

The general Part of Mankind will not comply with Equity without being led by Self-Interest of some kind or other.

Nevertheless, I humbly conceive, that it is the Duty of *Legislators*, who represent the Inhabitants of a Country, to comply with *Honour, Gratitude, and Equity*; and that *these three Terms, and Legislature*, ought to be understood *Synonymous* with respect to the Members which constitute a *Legislature*, whether in their single Station or collective Body : For, such a Compliance is consistent with Conscience and Views to a future Life, and is an exemplary Conduct in this.

But, Sir, these Duties have not been observed in my Case, by the Representatives of the Country where I published such an useful Discovery ; and seeing the *Physicians in London* on whom I depended for Mediation, from their avowed Declarations against *Quacks* and *Arcana*, have shewn what properly may be stiled a *Perfidious Neglect* towards me : It is humbly submitted to your Opinion, whether the *Legislature* of the Mother Country of the *American Plantations*, have any Call

D 2

from

from the Principles of Honour, to redress a Subject of *Great Britain*, egregiously abused and injured in fairly serving his *King* and *Country*?

I am, SIR,

Your most devoted,

most humble, and

most obedient Servant,

JOHN TENNENT.



W2 260 T297p 1742a